State Fact Sheets: California

• Population, Income, Food Insecurity, Education, and Employment
• Farm Characteristics
• Farm Financial Indicators
• Top Commodities, Exports, and Counties

Data updated February 6, 2025.

Population, Income, Food Insecurity, Education, and Employment

Population				
	Year	Rural*	Urban*	Total
	1980	569,423	23,098,342	23,667,765
	1990	713,834	29,097,593	29,811,427
	2000	796,164	33,075,489	33,871,653
	2010	845,156	36,409,366	37,254,522
	2020	859,361	38,678,851	39,538,212
	2023	845,159	38,120,034	38,965,193

*The terms “urban” and “rural” here refer to counties that are part of a metropolitan statistical area and counties that are not part of a metropolitan statistical area. Metropolitan statistical areas are county-based regions defined by the Office of Management and Budget. Our designations of “urban” and “rural” are based on the July 2023 (OMB Bulletin No. 23-01). See What is Rural? for more information on definitions of urban and rural.

More information on population in California
• County-level Population Data
• Rural Population and Migration Topic Page
• Contact John Cromartie and Richelle L. Winkler.

Income		Rural*	Urban*	Total
	Per-capita income			
	2022	53,839	77,456	76,941
	2023	57,336	81,786	81,255
	Percent change	6.5	5.6	5.6
	Earnings per job			
	2021	58,168	88,002	87,501
	2022	58,257	86,170	85,710
	Percent change	0.2	-2.1	-2.0
	Poverty rate (percent)			
	1999	15.2	14.2	14.2
	2010	17.0	15.8	15.8
	2020	13.4	11.4	11.5
	2023	14.2	12.0	12.0

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More information on poverty rates in California
• County-level Poverty Data
• Rural Poverty & Well-being Topic Page

• Estimates of per capita income and earnings per job are based on county-level data from U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, CAINC1 County and MSA personal income summary: personal income, population, per capita personal income; CAINC5N Personal income by major component and earnings by NAICS industry; and CAEMP25N Total full-time and part-time employment by NAICS industry. Poverty estimates are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial Census poverty measures and U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. See important notes about poverty data and intercensal model-based poverty estimates.
• Contact Tracey Farrigan (for poverty) and Austin Sanders (for income and earnings).

Household-level Food Insecurity and Very Low Food Security	2011–13 avg.	2018–20 avg.	2021–23 avg.
Percent			
Food insecure households	15.0	9.8	11.4
Very low food secure households	5.6	3.3	4.1

More information on food insecurity in California
• Food Security in the U.S. Topic Page
• Definitions of Food Insecurity and Very Low Food Security
• Comparisons of prevalence rates of food insecurity between States must take account of the margins of error, which are sizeable for many States. Margins of error are published along with State prevalence rates in each year's *Household Food Security in the United States* report.
• Contact Matthew Rabbitt.

Education (Persons 25 and older)	Rural*	Urban*	Total
Less than high school graduate			
1990	21.9	23.9	23.8
2000	17.8	23.3	23.2
2008–12	12.8	19.1	19.0
2019–23	10.5	15.5	15.4
High school graduate (or equivalency)			
1990	30.0	22.1	22.3
2000	27.5	19.9	20.1
2008–12	26.6	20.5	20.7
2019–23	26.2	20.3	20.4
Some college or associate degree			
1990	32.4	30.5	30.5
2000	36.7	29.9	30.0
2008–12	39.2	29.6	29.9
2019–23	37.8	27.5	27.7
Bachelor's degree or higher			
1990	15.6	23.6	23.4
2000	18.0	26.8	26.6
2008–12	21.4	30.7	30.5
2019–23	25.5	36.8	36.5

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More information on education in California
• County-level Education Data
• Rural Employment & Education Topic page
• Contact Austin Sanders.

Employment	Rural*	Urban*	Total
Employment change (percent)			
2020–21	2.1	3.1	3.1
2021–22	2.7	4.5	4.4
2022–23	0.8	0.2	0.2
Unemployment rate (percent)			
2022	4.6	4.3	4.3
2023	5.2	4.8	4.8

Average annual data are unavailable for Puerto Rico in 2020 because of missing monthly observations for March and April 2020.

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More information on unemployment rates in California
- County-level Unemployment Data
- Rural Employment & Education Topic page
- Contact Austin Sanders.

Farm Characteristics

Census of Agriculture	2007	2012	2017
Farms (number)	81,033	77,857	70,521
Approximate total land area (acres)	99,689,515	99,698,909	99,702,872
Farmland (acres)	25,364,695	25,569,001	24,522,801
Farmland in total land area (percent)	25.4	25.6	24.6
Cropland (acres)	9,464,647	9,591,783	9,597,439
Cropland in farmland (percent)	37.3	37.5	39.1
Cropland used as pasture (percent)	8.5	5.1	4.8
Cropland irrigated (percent)	76.9	76.9	76.6
Harvested cropland (percent)	80.6	83.5	81.9
Woodland (acres)	1,270,720	1,575,520	1,847,551
Woodland in farmland (percent)	5.0	6.2	7.5
Woodland in pasture (percent)	61.6	54.3	62.5
Permanent pasture and rangeland (acres)	13,275,042	13,036,448	11,606,249
Pastureland in farmland (percent)	52.3	51.0	47.3
Land in house lots, ponds, roads, wasteland, etc. (acres)	1,354,286	1,365,250	1,471,562
Land in house lots, ponds, roads, wasteland, etc. in farmland (percent of total farms)	5.3	5.3	6.0
Conservation practices			
Farmland in conservation or wetland reserve program (acres)	254,013	105,504	69,569
Average farm size (acres)	313	328	348
Farms by size (percent of total farms)			
1 to 99 acres	75.0	74.2	73.0

100 to 499 acres	15.4	15.9	16.4
500 to 999 acres	4.0	4.1	4.4
1000 to 1,999 acres	2.7	2.6	2.9
2000 or more acres	2.8	3.1	3.4
Farms by sales, current dollars (percent of total farms)			
Less than $9,999	46.6	43.0	43.6
$10,000 to $49,999	22.3	22.1	20.2
$50,000 to $99,999	7.7	8.6	8.0
$100,000 to $499,999	12.9	14.2	14.7
More than $500,000	10.6	12.2	13.4
Tenure of farmers			
Full owner farms (farms)	63,777	60,492	55,113
Full owner farms (percent of total farms)	78.7	77.7	78.2
Part owner farms (farms)	9,843	9,490	8,729
Part owner farms (percent of total farms)	12.1	12.2	12.4
Tenant farms (farms)	7,413	7,875	6,679
Tenant farms (percent of total farms)	9.1	10.1	9.5
Farm organization			
Individuals/family, sole proprietorship (farms)	64,001	59,732	52,390
Individuals/family, sole proprietorship (percent of total farms)	79.0	76.7	74.3
Family-held corporations (farms)	4,603	5,345	6,103
Family-held corporations (percent of total farms)	5.7	6.9	8.7
Partnerships (farms)	9,552	8,984	8,021
Partnerships (percent of total farms)	11.8	11.5	11.4
Non-family corporations (farms)	1,147	1,016	1,168
Non-family corporations (percent of total farms)	1.4	1.3	1.7
Others - cooperatives, estate or trust, institutional, etc. (farms)	1,730	2,780	2,839
Others - cooperatives, estate or trust, institutional, etc. (percent)	2.1	3.6	4.0
Characteristics of principal farm operators*			
Average operator age (years)	58.4	60.1	
Farm operators with farming as their principal occupation (percent)	50.5	54.5	
Men (number)	66,068	63,873	
Women (number)	14,965	13,984	

More information on farm characteristics in California
• Census of Agriculture
• Contact NASS Customer Service, 1-800-727-9540.
• *Note: Demographic information for 2017 is not directly comparable with data from previous Censuses, see Census of Agriculture FAQ for more information.

Farm Financial Indicators

Farm income and value added data	2022	2023
Value of crop production (1,000 dollars)	40,568,445	43,777,250
+ Value of animals and products production (1,000 dollars)	17,361,964	15,624,922
+ Farm-related income (1,000 dollars)	7,195,369	5,177,140
= Value of agricultural sector production (1,000 dollars)	65,125,777	64,579,312
- Contract labor (1,000 dollars)	3,750,594	4,036,997
- Intermediate product expenses (1,000 dollars)	26,780,463	29,637,333
+ Net government transactions (1,000 dollars)	-1,116,959	-1,351,730
= Gross value added (1,000 dollars)	33,477,761	29,553,252
- Capital consumption (1,000 dollars)	1,444,805	1,568,230
= Net value added (1,000 dollars)	32,032,957	27,985,022
- Factor payments (1,000 dollars)	11,367,270	15,505,849
Hired labor and non-cash employee compensation (1,000 dollars)	8,559,406	11,913,003
Net rent paid to operator landlords (1,000 dollars)	10,109	72,190
Net rent paid to nonoperator landlords (1,000 dollars)	48,387	345,545
Total interest expenses (1,000 dollars)	2,749,367	3,175,111
= Net farm income (1,000 dollars)	20,665,687	12,479,173

More information on farm income in California
- Farm Income and Wealth Statistics
- Farm Sector Income & Finances Topic Page
- Farm financial indicators and top commodities were updated February 6, 2025.
- Contact the Farm Income Team, 202-694-5121.

Top Commodities, Exports, and Counties

Top 5 agriculture commodities, 2023	Cash receipts 1,000 dollars	Cash receipts percent of State	Cash receipts percent of U.S.
Cash receipts			
1. Dairy products, Milk	8,133,926	13.7	17.7
2. Grapes	6,524,474	11.0	95.5
3. Miscellaneous crops	5,427,138	9.1	19.2
4. Cattle and calves	4,763,107	8.0	4.7
5. Lettuce	3,930,867	6.6	81.4
All commodities	59,389,887		11.5

More information on agricultural commodities in
- Farm Income and Wealth Statistics
- Farm financial indicators and top commodities were updated February 6, 2025.
- Contact the Farm Income Team, 202-694-5121.

Top 5 agriculture exports, estimates, 2022	Exports rank among States	Exports million dollars
Exports		
1. Tree nuts	1	8,106.1
2. Other plant products 5/	1	3,646.0
3. Fruits, processed	1	2,617.1
4. Fruits, fresh	1	2,589.1
5. Vegetables, processed	1	2,195.6
Total exports	1	24,743.1

More information on agricultural exports in California
• State Agricultural Trade Data (State exports, cash receipts estimates)
• Annual State Agricultural Exports (interactive chart)
• 1/ Includes other nonpoultry meats, animal fat, live farm animals, and other animal parts.
• 2/ Includes turkey meat, eggs, and other fowl products.
• 3/ Includes processed feeds, fodder, barley, oats, rye, and sorghum.
• 4/ Includes peanuts (oilstock), other oil crops, corn meal, other oilcake and meal, protein substances, bran and residues.
• 5/ Includes sweeteners and products, other horticulture products, planting seeds, cocoa, coffee, and other processed foods.
"Total exports" is the sum of all products included in the data product, which excludes some processed goods, such as distilled spirits, beer, and ethanol, etc. that account for about 4 percent of total recorded agricultural exports.
• Contact Bart Kenner and James Kaufman.

Top 5 counties in agricultural sales, 2017	Total receipts percent of State	Total receipts 1,000 dollars
Total receipts		
1. Fresno County	12.7	5,742,769
2. Tulare County	9.9	4,474,809
3. Monterey County	9.1	4,116,149
4. Kern County	9.0	4,076,783
5. Merced County	6.5	2,938,396
State Total		45,154,359

More information on agricultural sales in California
• Census of Agriculture
• Contact NASS Customer Service, 1-800-727-9540.

Data Sources

• 1980 Decennial Census (Puerto Rico only) and the Population Estimates Program from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
• Local Area Personal Income and Employment, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.
• Current Population Survey, Food Security Supplements.
• Local Area Unemployment Statistics, county-level data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
• State Agricultural Trade Data, USDA, Economic Research Service.
• Census of Agriculture, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.
• Farm Sector Income & Finances Topic Page, USDA, Economic Research Service.
• U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, decennial census education measures (1990, 2000) and 5-year period estimates (2008–12 and 2019–23) from the American Community Survey.
• U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, decennial poverty (1999) and Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2010–23). See notes about model-based estimates.

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